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General Assembly
Security Council

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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Seventy-third year

Identical letters dated 30 March 2018 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I write to bring to your urgent and immediate attention the dangerous situation unfolding on the ground in the Occupied State of Palestine, including East Jerusalem, due to the escalation of Israel's latest campaign of military aggression and attacks against the civilian population. In particular, the occupying Power has intensified its onslaught against the besieged Gaza Strip in serious breach of international law, including international humanitarian law and the relevant provisions regarding the protection of civilians in armed conflict.

As we write this letter, at least 15 Palestinian civilians have been killed, and more than 1,400 have been injured, many of them seriously. The intensification of Israel's aggression in the Gaza Strip threatens to further destabilize the situation on the ground and to fully ignite yet another round of deadly violence by Israel. This demands the attention of the international community, particularly the Security Council, which is duty-bound to take action to maintain international peace and security. This also means that our repeated request for the international protection of our people should be met immediately in order to avert more bloodshed and to save innocent Palestinian lives.

The majority of the Palestinian civilians who have tragically been killed in the Gaza Strip were killed while they were taking part in a peaceful, non-violent demonstration to mark the forty-second annual Palestine Land Day, on which occasion, in 1976, six Palestinians were killed during protests against Israel's illegal expropriation of thousands of dunums of Palestinian land. In fact, today's protests, which are aimed at reiterating the right of return of Palestinian refugees, are meant to kick off six weeks of peaceful protests leading up to the commemoration of the Nakbah on 15 May 2018. This year's commemoration of the Nakbah will solemnly observe the passage of 70 years since more than 800,000 Palestinians, 70 per cent of our people at that time, were forcibly uprooted and expelled from their homes and lands or fled in fear for their lives after brutal massacres had been carried out in over

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400 Palestinian towns and villages in a clear act of ethnic cleansing by Zionist terrorist groups in Mandate Palestine.

The names of some of the Palestinians tragically killed are: Mohammed Najjar (age 25); Mahmoud Muammar (age 38); Mohammed Abu Omar (age 22); Ahmed Oudeh (age 19); Jihad Freneh (age 33); Mahmoud Saadi Rahmi (age 33); Abdelfattah Abdelnabi (age 22); Ibrahim Abu Shaar (age 20); as well as Iyad Abdelal, Abdelqader al-Hawajiri, Sari Abu Odeh, Hamdan Abu Amsheh, Jihad Abu Jamous, Bader al-Sabbagh and Naji Abu Hjai, whose ages remain unknown. Earlier on Friday, Omar Waheed Abu Samour, a farmer from the Gaza Strip, was also killed by Israeli artillery fire while standing on his land near Khan Yunis, just hours ahead of the peaceful and non-violent demonstrations.

It must be highlighted that Israel, the occupying Power, has been preparing the ground for attacks against disarmed and unprotected Palestinian civilians peacefully protesting during Palestine Land Day through inciting provocative and violent rhetoric by Israeli officials. Such incitement even led to statements being made by human rights organizations, such as Amnesty International, which issued a warning yesterday calling on the Israeli occupying forces to "refrain from using excessive force" following reports that they had deployed more than 100 snipers with orders to shoot anyone who breached the wall between Israel and Gaza. In addition to the snipers, the occupying forces sent armoured vehicles, sniffer and attack dogs, as well as hundreds of other forces equipped with all sorts of lethal ammunition to use as they pleased, without regard for Palestinian lives in the Gaza Strip. It should be recalled that the 2 million Palestinian civilians in Gaza, 70 per cent of whom are registered refugees, have already suffered immeasurably from Israel's 10-year blockade, which has led to a dire socioeconomic and humanitarian crisis.

It is more than clear, in word and deed, that the latest incitement by Israeli officials and the barbaric violence of the Israeli occupying forces against the rights and lives of the Palestinian people have little to do with Israel's so-called security and everything to do with the country's continuing its stranglehold on the lives of every Palestinian man, woman and child living under its brutal occupation. It should be stated that the occupying Power will never succeed by continuing to violently silence all Palestinian non-violent actions that are against the systematic dehumanization of the Palestinian people and the denial of their inalienable rights. The people will continue to fight for their rights, including their rights to be free from occupation and to live in peace and security and with dignity.

Tragically, as we witness the events of today, wherein tens of thousands of Palestinians are marching peacefully throughout the Occupied State of Palestine, including East Jerusalem, as well as in Israel and the diaspora, we are reminded that the Nakbah did not end in 1948 but continues to this day. In this connection, it is beyond tragic that millions of Palestinians continue either to live in exile as refugees, denied the inalienable right to return to their homes, or to live under Israel's half-century-long belligerent military occupation of the State of Palestine, including East Jerusalem, where they are forced to endure the constant violation of their fundamental human rights, including Israel's ongoing theft of Palestinian land for illegal settlements, its destruction of Palestinian homes and agricultural land and its revocation of residency rights, deportations and recurring brutal military assaults that have resulted in mass civilian casualties, such as the ones that took place in Gaza in 2008, 2009, 2012 and 2014, as well as the denial of the internationally recognized legal right of return of millions of stateless Palestinian refugees.

We call upon the international community unequivocally to condemn Israel's criminal and illegal actions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, especially in the Gaza Strip. We reiterate our call to the international community, particularly the

Security Council, to uphold its responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security and to bring an immediate end to the occupying Power's military aggression. Israel must be held fully accountable for all its crimes, including today's killing of innocent Palestinian civilians, in accordance with international law and the principles of justice. With the high number of deaths today, we once again call upon the international community, particularly the Security Council, to act now to provide protection to the Palestinian people and to defuse this volatile situation, which clearly constitutes a threat to international peace and security. As we have stated in the past, the Palestinian people cannot remain the exception to the international commitments and obligations under international law, including the obligation to protect civilians from atrocities and grave breaches.

This letter is in follow-up to our 627 previous letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. Those letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 6 March 2018 (A/ES-10/772-S/2018/195) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council, and made available to the members of the Council for their immediate and valuable consideration.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the
State of Palestine to the United Nations

United Nations S/2018/283

Security Council

Distr.: General
2 April 2018

Original: English

Letter dated 28 March 2018 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the fifty-fourth monthly report of the Director-General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), submitted pursuant to paragraph 12 of Security Council resolution 2118 (2013). The present letter covers the period from 24 February to 23 March 2018.

Of the 27 chemical weapons production facilities declared by the Syrian Arab Republic, 25 have been verified by the OPCW Technical Secretariat as having been destroyed. Arrangements for the destruction of the remaining two facilities are ongoing.

With regard to the declaration of the Syrian Arab Republic, I remain deeply concerned that in spite of the information provided to OPCW by the Syrian Arab Republic, the OPCW Technical Secretariat remains unable to state that the Syrian Arab Republic submitted a declaration that can be considered accurate and complete.

I reiterate my call upon the Syrian Arab Republic to extend its full and timely cooperation to OPCW.

Alarming allegations of the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic have continued since the time of my last letter. In that context, I express confidence in the integrity and expertise of the OPCW fact-finding mission in studying all available information regarding these allegations. No circumstances exist that can justify the use of these weapons, by any party. It is therefore imperative that those who disregard this be identified and held accountable. As always, the United Nations stands ready to assist in ensuring this outcome. Impunity cannot prevail. I once again encourage the Security Council to agree upon a unified response — one that will address this threat to international peace and security and begin to repair the damage to the chemical weapons disarmament and non-proliferation regime.

(*Signed*) António **Guterres**

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Annex to the letter dated 28 March 2018 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish]

I have the honour to transmit to you my report entitled "Progress in the Elimination of the Syrian Chemical Weapons Programme", prepared in accordance with the relevant provisions of the OPCW Executive Council Decision EC-M-33/DEC.1, and the United Nations Security Council resolution 2118 (2013), both dated 27 September 2013, for transmission to the Security Council. My report covers the period from 24 February 2018 to 23 March 2018 and also covers the reporting requirements of the Executive Council decision EC-M-34/DEC.1, dated 15 November 2013.

(*Signed*) Ahmet **Üzümcü**

Enclosure

[Original: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish]

Note by the Director-General

Progress in the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme

Background

1. In accordance with subparagraph 2(f) of the decision by the Executive Council (hereinafter "the Council") at its Thirty-Third Meeting (EC-M-33/DEC.1, dated 27 September 2013), the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter "the Secretariat") is to report to the Council on a monthly basis regarding the implementation of that decision. In accordance with paragraph 12 of United Nations Security Council resolution 2118 (2013), the report by the Secretariat is also to be submitted to the Security Council through the Secretary-General.

2. The Council, at its Thirty-Fourth Meeting, adopted a decision entitled "Detailed Requirements for the Destruction of Syrian Chemical Weapons and Syrian Chemical Weapons Production Facilities" (EC-M-34/DEC.1, dated 15 November 2013). In paragraph 22 of that decision, the Council decided that the Secretariat should report on its implementation "in conjunction with its reporting required by subparagraph 2(f) of Council decision EC-M-33/DEC.1".

3. The Council, at its Forty-Eighth Meeting, adopted a decision entitled "Reports of the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria" (EC-M-48/DEC.1, dated 4 February 2015) noting the Director-General's intent to include reports of the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) in Syria, along with information on the Council's discussion thereof, as part of the monthly reporting pursuant to United Nations Security Council resolution 2118 (2013). Similarly, the Council, at its Eighty-First Session, adopted a decision entitled "Report by the Director-General Regarding the Declaration and Related Submissions by the Syrian Arab Republic" (EC-81/DEC.4, dated 23 March 2016), noting the Director-General's intent to provide information on the implementation of that decision.

4. The Council, at its Eighty-Third Session, adopted a decision entitled "OPCW-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism Reports on Chemical Weapons Use in the Syrian Arab Republic" (EC-83/DEC.5, dated 11 November 2016). In subparagraph 12(a) of that decision, the Council decided that the Director-General shall "regularly inform the Council on the implementation of this decision and incorporate information regarding the implementation of this decision into his monthly reporting to the United Nations Security Council, through the United Nations Secretary-General, regarding EC-M-33/DEC.1".

5. This, the fifty-fourth monthly report, is therefore submitted in accordance with the aforementioned Council decisions and includes information relevant to the period from 24 February 2018 to 23 March 2018.

Progress achieved by the Syrian Arab Republic in meeting the requirements of Executive Council decisions EC-M-33/DEC.1 and EC-M-34/DEC.1

6. Progress by the Syrian Arab Republic is as follows:

(a) The Secretariat has verified the destruction of 25 of the 27 chemical weapons production facilities (CWPFs) declared by the Syrian Arab Republic. As previously reported, in November 2017 the Secretariat conducted an initial inspection

of the last two stationary above-ground facilities in accordance with paragraph 44 of Part V of the Verification Annex to the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter "the Convention"). Thanks to the voluntary contributions provided by States Parties to the Syria Trust Fund for the Destruction of Chemical Weapons, including contributions provided in response to the Secretariat's Note S/1541/2017 (dated 9 October 2017), the Secretariat, together with the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), has been making all the required arrangements to assist the Syrian Arab Republic in the destruction of the facilities located at these two sites.

(b) In this regard, the Steering Committee, which consists of representatives of the Syrian Arab Republic, the OPCW, and UNOPS, met in Beirut, Lebanon, from 19 to 21 March 2018 to discuss additional amendments to the Tripartite Agreement concluded between those three parties on 9 September 2014, as previously amended. The additional amendments, which were agreed upon by the parties during the meeting, were necessary to reflect the work required to destroy the two remaining CWPFs. Once the remaining required arrangements are finalised, destruction is expected to take two to three months, subject to security conditions.

(c) On 19 March 2018, the Syrian Arab Republic submitted to the Council its fifty-second monthly report (EC-88/P/NAT.1, dated 21 March 2018) regarding activities on its territory related to the destruction of its CWPFs, as required by paragraph 19 of EC-M-34/DEC.1.

Progress in the elimination of Syrian chemical weapons by States Parties hosting destruction activities

7. As stated in previous reports, all of the chemicals declared by the Syrian Arab Republic that were removed from its territory in 2014 have now been destroyed.

Activities carried out by the Secretariat with respect to Executive Council decisions EC-81/DEC.4 and EC-83/DEC.5

8. During the reporting period, the Declaration Assessment Team (DAT) continued its efforts to clarify all outstanding issues regarding the initial declaration of the Syrian Arab Republic in accordance with paragraph 3 of Council decision EC-81/DEC.4 and paragraph 6 of Council decision EC-83/DEC.5. On 29 January 2018, the Director-General addressed a letter to the Deputy Foreign Minister of the Syrian Arab Republic, Dr Faisal Mekdad, in which he asked for further clarifications regarding activities conducted at the Scientific Studies and Research Centre (SSRC), and attached to his letter a non-exhaustive list of questions.

9. Through a note verbale dated 19 February 2018, the Syrian Arab Republic provided answers to the SSRC-related questions raised in the Director-General's letter of 29 January 2018. The DAT assessed these answers and determined that while they partially addressed some of the questions, other questions remained unanswered. The DAT's assessment of the responses provided by the Syrian Arab Republic was reported in a Note by the Director-General entitled "Report on the Work of the Declaration Assessment Team" (EC-87/HP/DG.1, dated 2 March 2018).

10. On 6 March 2018, the DAT gave an informal briefing to States Parties on the technical aspects and current status of all outstanding issues related to the initial declaration and submissions of the Syrian Arab Republic. As stated by the Director-General in his opening statement to the Council at its Eighty-Seventh Session (EC-87/DG.21 and EC-87/DG.22, both dated 13 March 2018), the Secretariat remains unable to confirm that the Syrian Arab Republic has submitted a declaration that can be considered accurate and complete in accordance with the Convention and the decisions of the Council.

11. In accordance with paragraph 11 of Council decision EC-83/DEC.5, the second round of inspections at the Barzah and Jamrayah facilities of the SSRC was concluded on 22 November 2017. The results of the inspections were reported as an addendum (EC-87/DG.15/Add.1, dated 28 February 2018) to the report entitled "Status of Implementation of Executive Council Decision EC-83/DEC.5 (dated 11 November 2016)" (EC-87/DG.15, dated 23 February 2018). The analysis of samples taken during the inspections did not indicate the presence of scheduled chemicals in the samples, and the inspection team did not observe any activities inconsistent with obligations under the Convention during the second round of inspections at the Barzah and Jamrayah facilities.

Other activities carried out by the Secretariat with respect to the Syrian Arab Republic

12. At the request of the Syrian authorities, the Secretariat deployed a team to several sites in the Syrian Arab Republic from 6 to 12 February 2018 to provide technical assistance and technical evaluation to the Syrian Arab Republic in respect of items reportedly discovered by Syrian armed forces at four different locations in the Syrian Arab Republic. The Secretariat issued a report on the team's findings, entitled "Report on the Special Mission Conducted in Response to the Requests and Information Received from the Syrian Arab Republic through Notes Verbales dated 6, 16, and 20 November 2017; 28 December 2017; and 8 and 22 January 2018" (S/1596/2018, dated 2 March 2018). The team concluded that none of the observed items and visited sites are declarable under the relevant provisions of the Convention. The Secretariat gave a briefing to the States Parties on the special mission and its findings on 6 March 2018.

13. UNOPS continues to provide support to the OPCW mission in the Syrian Arab Republic in accordance with the Tripartite Agreement.

14. As at the cut-off date of this report, one OPCW staff member was deployed as part of the OPCW mission in the Syrian Arab Republic.

Supplementary resources

15. As previously reported, the Trust Fund for Syria Missions was established in November 2015 to support the OPCW FFM and other remaining activities, such as those of the DAT. As at the cut-off date of this report, total contributions to this fund stood at EUR 17.1 million. Contribution agreements had been concluded with Canada, Chile, Finland, France, Germany, Monaco, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, and the European Union.

Activities carried out with respect to the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria

16. Guided by Council decisions EC-M-48/DEC.1 and EC-M-50/DEC.1 (dated 23 November 2015), as well as by United Nations Security Council resolution 2209 (2015), the FFM continued to study all available information relating to the allegations of use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic. In this regard, the FFM deployed during the period between mid-February and mid-March to gather information and exchanged a number of notes verbales with the Syrian National Authority. On 6 March 2018, the Secretariat gave an informal briefing to States Parties on the recent activities of the FFM.

Conclusion

17. The main focus of the future activities of the OPCW mission in the Syrian Arab Republic will be on the activities of the FFM and on the implementation of Council

decisions EC-83/DEC.5 and EC-81/DEC.4, including declaration-related issues, as well as on the verification of the destruction of the two stationary above-ground facilities, and annual inspections of the underground structures already verified as destroyed.

United Nations S/2018/284

Security Council

Distr.: General
2 April 2018

Original: English

Letter dated 31 March 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

The State of Israel and the Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations are disappointed and deeply outraged by the events that took place at the Security Council last night. The Council was scheduled to convene at 6.30 p.m. on 30 March 2018 for closed consultations regarding the premeditated violent confrontations on Israel's security fence along the Gaza Strip. The State of Kuwait, with full knowledge that our Mission, Israel, and Jews everywhere were observing the first night of Passover, hijacked the consultations, forced an open session and invited the Palestinian delegation to present remarks that they had been advised to prepare well in advance. Israel was not given the same advance notice and was barred from taking part in the deliberations due to the observance of our religious holiday.

We informed the Council just days ago of Hamas' intent to foment violent confrontations. Once again, Hamas has exploited women and children as human shields, including by dressing young children in military uniforms and arming them with guns and ammunition. Despite the Palestinian leadership's insistence on the peaceful nature of these demonstrations, Hamas and its affiliated factions have interspersed armed terrorists amongst civilians, a number of whom were killed as a result of their direct attacks on Israeli positions. The Israel Defense Forces have also thwarted additional attempted terror attacks, including gunfire and other assaults.

Israel is taking great caution to protect the lives of civilians, operating in strict accordance with our rules of engagement, firing only when necessary and avoiding civilians Hamas has placed strategically in harm's way. We cannot, however, permit mass infiltration and breaches of our sovereignty.

In light of last night's events, I would like to remind the Council that exploiting procedural rules so that one side can make its case while the other cannot is antithetical to the spirit of the United Nations and is a direct affront to the fundamental principles of honest deliberation.

(*Signed*) Danny **Danon**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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United Nations S/2018/285

Security Council

Distr.: General
11 April 2018
English
Original: French

Letter dated 1 April 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to urgently draw your attention and that of the other members of the Security Council to the following:

- In September 1991, on the eve of the entry into force of the ceasefire, under the supervision of the United Nations, the area east of the security structure in Moroccan Sahara was voluntarily set up by my country, in agreement with the United Nations, to exclude any civilian or military presence there, in order to reduce tensions between Morocco and Algeria and prevent the resumption of hostilities.

- At the time, the Kingdom of Morocco had agreed with the United Nations that the only presence in the area east of the security structure in Moroccan Sahara was, and would remain, that of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), in order to consolidate the ceasefire. These facts are duly recorded in the various exchanges between Morocco and the United Nations and through the interaction of my country with the members of the international community.

- The Status of Mission Agreement of MINURSO, signed between the Kingdom of Morocco and the United Nations, states explicitly, in its article 1 (b), that its provisions cover the entire "Sahara territory", thus covering areas both west and east of the security structure.

- For several months now, the other parties have been escalating their violations of the ceasefire and the military agreements in force, carrying out extremely grave acts of provocation that seriously threaten peace, stability and security in the region. These include:

  - The continued illegal presence of armed elements of "polisario" in the Guerguerat buffer zone, in flagrant violation of military agreement No. 1. This is an unacceptable defiance of the Security Council, the United Nations and its Secretary-General, António Guterres. In his statements of 25 February 2017 and 6 January 2018, as well as in his report on the situation concerning Western Sahara (S/2017/307), dated 10 April 2017, the Secretary-General had called for the complete maintenance of the status quo and for freedom of movement in the buffer zone of Guerguerat. In the report, he had also expressed his deep concern by the continued presence of "polisario" in the zone and had asked the Security Council to urge "polisario" to withdraw from the buffer zone in Guerguerat fully and unconditionally.

- Three days ago, "polisario" once again repeated its violations of military agreement No.1 in another area of Moroccan Sahara, namely Mahbes, where several armed elements of "polisario" turned up in military vehicles, set up tents, dug a ditch and built structures using sandbags.

– To make matters worse, "polisario" is preparing to relocate some of its administrative and military facilities from the Tindouf camps in Algeria, where they have always been since the start of the dispute in 1975, to the area east of the security structure in Moroccan Sahara, which includes the localities of Bir Lahlou and Tifariti.

– The unacceptable and illegal objective of this new and extremely serious escalation is to change the reality on the ground and to alter the status quo in Moroccan Sahara, something which Morocco will never allow. The relocation of any civilian, military, administrative or other "polisario" facility of any kind from the Tindouf camps in Algeria to the area east of the security structure in Moroccan Sahara constitutes a casus belli.

– This illegal act by the other parties seriously threatens the United Nations political process which the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy have been working tirelessly to relaunch. With their repeated violations, which have now spread to several areas east of the security structure in Moroccan Sahara, the other parties are ensuring that any chance of relaunching the political process is doomed. Indeed, the violations of the military agreements and the ceasefire and the exacerbation of tensions on the ground are antithetical to the political process which, as the Secretary-General says, absolutely needs a favourable and peaceful environment.

– The inaction of the international community and its passivity in respect of these violations have, unfortunately, been interpreted by the other parties as encouragement to persist in their defiance.

– The Kingdom of Morocco therefore urges the Security Council to demand that the other parties cease their actions, which are detrimental to peace, stability and security in the region. The Council is called upon to use its authority to force compliance with the ceasefire and military agreements and to order "polisario" to withdraw immediately, unconditionally and completely from the area east of the security structure in Moroccan Sahara.

– The Kingdom of Morocco, which has so far shown restraint and a strong sense of responsibility, at the request of the Secretary-General, his Personal Envoy and the international community, will not stand idly by while the situation on the ground deteriorates. The other parties will then have to take full responsibility for the consequences of their actions.

– The Kingdom of Morocco would like to reiterate its continued and unwavering commitment to the United Nations political process and its full readiness to continue cooperating with the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy.

I should be most grateful if you would have the present letter issued urgently as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Omar **Hilale**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations S/2018/286

Security Council

Distr.: General
10 April 2018

Original: English

United States of America: draft resolution

The Security Council,

Reaffirming its previous resolutions on Haiti, in particular its resolutions 2350 (2017), 2313 (2016), 2243 (2015), 2180 (2014), 2119 (2013), 2070 (2012), 2012 (2011), 1944 (2010), 1927 (2010), 1908 (2010), 1892 (2009), 1840 (2008), 1780 (2007), 1743 (2007), 1702 (2006), 1658 (2006), 1608 (2005), 1601 (2005), 1576 (2004), 1529 (2004), and 1542 (2004),

Recognizing that, over the past year, Haiti has made considerable strides towards stability and democracy, improvements in strengthening the security and humanitarian situation, and a consolidation of Haiti's democratic institutions through a peaceful transfer of power, including with the support the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH),

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, and unity of Haiti,

Recognizing that the overall security situation has remained stable since the adoption of resolution 2350 (2017), allowing the closure of MINUSTAH and a drawdown of its military capabilities and an orderly transition to the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH),

Noting MINUJUSTH's role in assisting all branches of the Government of Haiti (Government) to strengthen rule of law institutions, further developing the Haitian National Police (HNP) to enable it to improve Haiti's security environment, and engaging in human rights monitoring, reporting and analysis, and *emphasizing* the importance of the continued support of the United Nations and the international community for the long-term security and development of Haiti, particularly in building the capacity of the Government, consolidating and building on the achievements of past years, while *encouraging* the Haitian authorities to address the longstanding risks of instability,

Recalling its resolutions 1645 (2005) and 2282 (2016), and *reaffirming* the primary responsibility of the Government in implementing its peacebuilding and sustaining peace strategies to address the interconnected nature of challenges in Haiti, *highlighting* the contribution of sustainable development to peacebuilding and sustaining peace, and in this regard, emphasizing the importance of national ownership, inclusivity, and the role that civil society can play to advance national peacebuilding processes and objectives in order to ensure that the needs of all segments of society are taken into account,

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Acknowledging that Haiti continues to face significant humanitarian challenges and *affirming* that progress in the country's reconstruction, and its social and economic development through effective and coordinated international development assistance and increased Haitian institutional capacity to benefit from this assistance, is crucial to achieving lasting and sustainable stability,

Reiterating the need for security to be accompanied by sustainable development, in its social, economic, and environmental dimensions, including efforts in risk reduction and preparedness that address the country's extreme vulnerability to natural disasters, efforts in which the Government plays a leading role with the assistance of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT),

Reiterating its support for MINUJUSTH, in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and other international actors as appropriate, to continue to assist the Government in effectively tackling human trafficking, in line with resolution 2388 (2017), as well as combatting other forms of transnational organized crime, namely the trafficking of drugs and arms in Haiti, in accordance with international law,

Recalling General Assembly resolution A/RES/71/161 on the United Nations 'New Approach to Cholera in Haiti,' *noting* the continued progress in reductions of suspected cases of cholera and *reaffirming* the importance of the continued support of the international community to the UN's efforts to combat cholera in Haiti,

Emphasizing the importance of effective support from the Government and its international and regional partners for the 2017–2021 Haitian National Police Strategic Development Plan to better prepare the HNP to respond to public disorder and manage security threats and reducing the need for international support,

Recalling resolutions 2378 (2017) and 2382 (2017), which request the Secretary-General to ensure that data related to the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations, including peacekeeping performance data, is used to improve analytics and the evaluation of mission operations, based on clear and well identified benchmarks,

Recognizing that strengthening national human rights institutions, including respecting the right to a fair trial, promoting access to justice, fighting corruption and impunity, combating criminality, sexual and gender-based violence, and ensuring accountability, as well as respect for human rights, including of women and children, are all essential to promoting the rule of law and security in Haiti,

Further affirming the importance of close coordination between MINUJUSTH and UNCT, and *urging* that, in alignment with the two-year benchmarked exit strategy, MINUJUSTH work closely with the UNCT to identify ways to address gaps in capabilities to prepare for the Mission's drawdown, and *further urging* MINUJUSTH, the UNCT, and all relevant UN agencies, in consultation with the Government, to coordinate closely in the transfer of these responsibilities,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General of 20 March 2018 (S/2018/241), including the benchmarked exit strategy,

Mindful of its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security under the Charter of the United Nations,

Acting under Chapter VII the Charter of the United Nations,

1. *Decides* to extend the mandate of MINUJUSTH until 15 April 2019 to assist the Government to strengthen rule of law institutions in Haiti, further support and develop the HNP, and engage in human rights monitoring, reporting, and analysis, with the intention to review the need for renewal as necessary;

2. *Reaffirms* that, in the framework of improving the rule of law in Haiti, strengthening the justice sector and capacity of the HNP is essential to enabling the Government to take timely and full responsibility for the country's security needs;

3. *Decides* that MINUJUSTH's police component will maintain seven Formed Police Units (FPUs) and 295 Individual Police Officers (IPOs) until 15 October 2018, and the MINUJUSTH police component will be adjusted downward to five FPUs between 15 October 2018 and 15 April 2019 and maintain 295 Individual Police Officers until 15 April 2019, with any reduction taking into account the evolving security situation in Haiti and adjusted accordingly;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Council on the implementation of this resolution, including any instances of mandate implementation failures and measures taken to address these, in reports every 90 days starting from 1 June 2018;

5. *Further requests* the Secretary-General, in his 1 June 2018 report, in partnership with the Government and the UNCT, to further develop specific dates and indicators for achieving the benchmarks, with the goal of transitioning tasks and responsibilities to the Government, in coordination with the UNCT, as set out in the two-year exit strategy included in the Secretary-General's report of 20 March 2018;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General report to the Council on progress with implementing the benchmarked exit strategy in the 90-day reports starting from 1 June 2018, and that these reports include progress against delivery of the indicators, milestones, targets for reaching the benchmarks, and mission staffing in the strategy;

7. *Encourages* the Government, working with MINUJUSTH under the rule of law task in its mandate and according to the benchmarked two-year exit strategy, to carry out inter alia work towards implementing the benchmarks, including adopting the draft Criminal Code and Code of Criminal Procedure, strengthening Haitian judicial and correctional systems, increasing internal oversight and accountability mechanisms in the justice, corrections, and police sectors, establishing a Permanent Electoral Council, adopting the Legal Assistance Law, addressing the issue of prolonged pretrial detention, and implementing community violence reduction efforts;

8. *Further requests* the Secretary-General submit to the Council, in his 1 September 2018 report, an update on timelines for the transition of tasks and responsibilities for handover to the Government, in coordination with the UNCT, in order to draw down the mission and approximately scale up the relevant activities and programming of the UNCT by 15 October 2019, while at the same time, building on the benchmarks identified in the two-year exit strategy;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to conduct a Strategic Assessment Mission to Haiti by 1 February 2019 and, on this basis, to present to the Council recommendations on the future United Nations role in Haiti, including any recommendations for drawdown and exit, in the fourth 90-day report no later than 1 March 2019;

10. *Affirms* its intention, based on the Security Council's review of the security conditions on the ground and Haiti's overall capacity to ensure stability, to consider the withdrawal of MINUJUSTH and transition to a non-peacekeeping United Nations presence in Haiti beginning no sooner than 15 October 2019;

11. *Underscores* the urgency for the Government to take all appropriate steps to ensure, with the support of the international community as necessary, respect for and protection of human rights by the HNP and the judiciary as an essential element

of Haiti's stability, and *calls on* MINUJUSTH to provide monitoring and support in line with its mandate in this regard;

12. *Requests* the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to continue to play a good offices and advocacy role at the political level to ensure full implementation of the mandate, including through close coordination with the Government for the development of a political strategy aimed at addressing political challenges to progress towards the rule of law and creating momentum for systematic progress;

13. *Requests* the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and MINUJUSTH to coordinate closely with the Government, and *calls upon* the Government to facilitate MINUJUSTH's mandate and functioning;

14. *Authorizes* MINUJUSTH to use all necessary means to carry out its mandate to support and develop the HNP;

15. *Further authorizes* MINUJUSTH to protect civilians under imminent threat of physical violence, within its capabilities and areas of deployment, as needed;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure MINUJUSTH maintains capacity, including appropriate air assets and medical enablers, to deploy security forces rapidly throughout the country and in support of the HNP;

17. *Reaffirms* the importance for MINUJUSTH taking fully into account gender mainstreaming as a crosscutting issue throughout its mandate and to assist the Government in ensuring the full and effective participation, involvement, and representation of women at all levels;

18. *Welcomes* the initiatives undertaken by the Secretary General to standardize a culture of performance in UN peacekeeping that implements the Operational Readiness Assurance and Performance Improvement Policy, conducts mission performance reviews that include police contingents, and leverages the Peacekeeping Capabilities and Readiness System (PCRS) to ensure performance data informs decisions regarding deployment, remediation, and repatriation of United Nations personnel, and *calls on* him to continue his efforts in this regard;

19. *Recalls* its resolution 2272 (2016), and all other relevant United Nations resolutions, requests the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps to ensure full compliance of all MINUJUSTH personnel with the United Nations zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse, and to continue to keep the Council informed, and *urges* police-contributing countries to redouble their efforts to prevent cases of misconduct and to ensure that acts involving their personnel are properly investigated in a credible and transparent manner and that those responsible are held accountable;

20. *Expresses its intent* to continue to review conditions in Haiti, and to consider adapting MINUJUSTH's mandate and police force levels, as needed, to preserve the progress Haiti has made towards durable security and stability;

21. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

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Letter dated 2 April 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith information bulletins from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic for the period 30 March–2 April 2018 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) V. **Nebenzia**

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Annex to the letter dated 2 April 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (30 March 2018)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The situation in the de-escalation areas has been assessed as stable.

The Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported 12 incidents of gunfire in the following Governorates: 6 in Ladhiqiyah, 5 in Damascus and 1 in Aleppo.

The Turkish representative office has reported two incidents of gunfire: one in Damascus Governorate and one in Idlib Governorate.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

The Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic has not carried out any humanitarian operations over the past 24 hours.

In total, 1,778 humanitarian operations have been carried out.

The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered is 2,500 tons.

Over the past 24 hours, medical assistance has been provided to 54 residents.

In total, medical assistance has been provided to 75,453 residents.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

Over the past 24 hours two ceasefire agreements have been signed with Judaydah in Aleppo Governorate and Tallbissah in Homs Governorate.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process has increased to 2,484.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 234.

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (31 March 2018)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The situation in the de-escalation areas has been assessed as stable.

The Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported 11 incidents of gunfire in the following Governorates: 5 in Ladhiqiyah, 3 in Aleppo and 3 in Damascus.

The Turkish representative office has reported one incident of gunfire in Aleppo Governorate.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

The Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic has not carried out any humanitarian operations over the past 24 hours.

In total, 1,778 humanitarian operations have been carried out.

The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered is 2,500 tons.

Over the past 24 hours, medical assistance has been provided to 60 residents.

In total, medical assistance has been provided to 75,513 residents.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

No ceasefire agreements have been signed over the past 24 hours.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process is unchanged — it is still 2,484.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 234.

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (1 April 2018)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The situation in the de-escalation areas has been assessed as stable.

The Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported 12 incidents of gunfire in the following Governorates: 5 in Damascus, 5 in Ladhiqiyah and 2 in Aleppo.

The Turkish representative office has reported one incident of gunfire in Ladhiqiyah Governorate.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

The Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic has not carried out any humanitarian operations over the past 24 hours.

In total, 1,778 humanitarian operations have been carried out.

The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered is 2,500 tons.

Over the past 24 hours, medical assistance has been provided to 82 residents.

In total, medical assistance has been provided to 75,595 residents.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

No ceasefire agreements have been signed over the past 24 hours.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process is unchanged — it is still 2,484.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 234.

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (2 April 2018)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The situation in the de-escalation areas has been assessed as stable.

The Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported 12 incidents of gunfire in the following Governorates: 6 in Ladhiqiyah, 3 in Damascus, 2 in Aleppo and 1 in Homs.

The Turkish representative office has reported four incidents of gunfire: three in Idlib Governorate and one in Homs Governorate.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

The Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic has not carried out any humanitarian operations over the past 24 hours.

In total, 1,778 humanitarian operations have been carried out.

The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered is 2,499.94 tons.

Over the past 24 hours, medical assistance has been provided to 90 residents.

In total, medical assistance has been provided to 75,685 residents.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

Over the past 24 hours 10 ceasefire agreements have been signed with the following populated areas: Taqsis, Zawr al-Jumqalah, Zawr Abu Dardah, Mishyah, Qubayhah, Amirah, Atshan, Zawr al-Malan, Ramliyah and Hanifah in Hama Governorate.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process has increased to 2,494.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 234.